

REMARKS

We are in receipt of the Office Action mailed December 1, 2005, and the following remarks are made in light thereof.

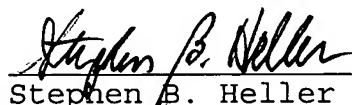
Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Pursuant to the Office Action, restriction of the application to either claims 1-26 (the Group I claims), drawn to an electrothermal fluidized bed ("EFB") furnace or to claims 27-34 (the Group II claims) drawn to an EFB treatment process and the resulting product. The Examiner asserts that the invention claimed in claims 1-26 is distinct from the inventions claimed in claims 27-34.

Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement for the following reason. Both the process recited in claims 27-32 and the products recited in claims 33 and 34 require the use of an EFB furnace "in accordance with claim 1." As both the process and the product explicitly require the use of this EFB, the Group II inventions are not "distinct" from the Group I invention.

Specifically, election of the Group II claims will still require a search of the art for the EFB furnace called for in the Group I claims. As such, applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims 1-34 should be maintained in the present application and examined as a whole.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant will make only a provisional election of the Group II claims, claims 27-34. In accordance with this provisional election, claim 27 has been amended to be put into independent form as requested by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,



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